

TEMPLATE FOR WORSHIP AID

CATHOLIC WEDDING LITURGY



Prepared by
The Office of Liturgy
© 2016 Diocese of Salt Lake City

Celebrating the Rite of Matrimony

The Catholic Wedding Liturgy may not be easily understood by individuals who are not Catholic. Many times this causes confusion or discomfort as the assembly is uncertain when to sit, stand or respond. This booklet is intended to provide a simple explanation of the Wedding Mass and Ceremony and assist in the participation of all those attending. It is not intended to replace comprehensive planning with the pastor, parish wedding coordinator and couple. Rather it's a tool that can be used when planning is complete to create a worship aid or program which explains the Catholic Rite of Matrimony.

There are three choices of Rites for Matrimony in the Catholic Church.

The **Rite for Celebrating Matrimony Within Mass**, which is the usual and recommended form, especially if both the bride and groom are Catholic.

The **Rite for Celebrating Matrimony Without Mass**, which is frequently used if either the bride or the groom is not a Catholic.

The **Rite for Celebrating Matrimony between a Catholic and an Unbaptized Person**, which is celebrated when someone in the catechumenate wishes to get married or a Catholic person is marrying someone that is not baptized.

This booklet provides templates for the first two Rites.

Rite for Celebrating Matrimony Within Mass

The Celebration of Holy Matrimony

James Gonzalez & Sophia Jones

Saturday, July 19, 2016

The Catholic Mass is the most important sacramental celebration in the Church. It is a celebration of the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We gather for Mass, as a community, to remember Jesus' sacrifice, which brings salvation to believers. The Catholic Mass follows a set order and is divided into two equally important parts: The Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist. In each, God reaches out to us and we respond in song, prayer and gestures.

In the Liturgy of the Word we encounter Jesus in the Word of God, the Bible. We will hear selections from the Old Testament, New Testament and Gospel. The Celebrant will share a homily in which he expresses his thoughts and teachings about the scripture readings.

In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we encounter God and Jesus in Holy Communion. This part of Mass includes the Eucharistic Prayer. It is during this prayer that the priest, acting in the person of Christ, blesses the bread and wine and they become the Body and Blood of Christ. This is followed by the congregation praying "The Lord's Prayer" together and the distribution of Holy Communion.

Sometimes referred to as "Catholic Calisthenics", we will stand, kneel and sit during the Mass. Sometimes we stand out of respect and honor as we listen; sometimes we kneel in worship; and other times we sit, listening to God's Spirit in our hearts. These shared postures and gestures also unify

us into one community, one family.

During today's Mass, we also celebrate another Sacrament of the Catholic faith, Holy Matrimony, the marriage of **James and Sophia**. This Sacrament is celebrated within the Mass because Catholics believe that God is key member of the marriage.

James and Sophia will come before the celebrant, congregation and witnesses to pronounce their vows, proclaiming their love as a sign and symbol of God's love for us. We, the community will pray with them in support of their vows. It is the bride and groom who perform the marriage. The celebrant, the attendants and the congregation witness this Holy Sacrament.

Please Stand.

The Introductory Rite

Entrance Procession

We gather as a community and praise God in song, reminding us that we are the people of God on a journey to the Kingdom, and the Mass is an important part of this journey.

Entrance Song

of song in the Missal or title

Sign of the Cross & Greeting

The priest greets the assembly.

Introduction

Glory to God

Collect (Opening Prayer)

The opening prayer is the conclusion of the Introductory Rites. The celebrant “gathers up” all the needs and desires of the assembly and presents them to the Father through the Son and in the Holy Spirit.

Please be Seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Genesis 1, 26-28.31

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 112, 1-8.9

Second Reading

Romans 8, 31-35, 37-39

Please Stand.

Gospel Acclamation

We sing praise to God for the Good News.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5, 1-12

We stand and listen to the Gospel of the Lord. The Gospel reading is taken from one of the four Gospels in the Bible and proclaimed by the celebrant.

Please be Seated.

Homily

The priest offers a commentary or instruction drawn from the Scripture readings and how they can be a part of our daily lives.

Rite of Matrimony

Consent

Fr. Bill invites the couple to join hands and declare their consent.

The Blessing & Giving of Rings

[The Blessing and Giving of the Arras]

The word arras literally means “pledge.” Usually, the arras consists of a small cask containing thirteen gilded or plated coins symbolizing prosperity. The formula which both bride and groom say to each other during the exchange of the arras highlights their commitment to share together all the goods which they will receive during their married life.

[Hymn or Canticle of Praise]

The Universal Prayer

General Intercessions are an integral part of the Liturgy as we ask and respond confidently that God will act today through us. The response to each Intercession is, “Lord Hear Our Prayer”.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts

The time in the Mass when the bread and wine to be used in the celebration are brought to the celebrant.

Offertory Hymn

of song in the Missal or title

We praise God in song as our gifts of bread and wine are prepared.

Prayer over the Offerings

The priest prays that God will accept our gifts.

Please stand.

Eucharistic Prayer

[Page # of the Missal]

The Eucharistic Prayer is the heart of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In this prayer, the celebrant acts in the person of

Christ as head of his body, the Church. He gathers not only the bread and the wine, but the substance of our lives and joins them to Christ's perfect sacrifice, offering them to the Father.

[The Blessing and Placing of the Lazo or the Veil]

The lazo is a type of lasso or yoke to symbolize the marriage union. Its most usual form is a double-looped rosary; one loop goes over the groom's shoulders and the other over the bride's with the cross hanging between them. The two are now tied together for life, so to speak. To use the biblical expression, they become "one flesh."

The veil seems to have had its origins as a symbol of both as dying to one's past self (like a funeral pall) and as a protection from danger (like a cloak or protective covering). While the woman wears the veil, it is placed over the shoulder of the man and oftentimes the lazo helps to hold it in place. It is usually placed just before the Nuptial Blessing, since the Nuptial Blessing, symbolized by the veil, is the "protection" which the Church offers the newly married couple.

The Lord's Prayer

We pray together the Our Father.

The Nuptial Blessing

The celebrant will call for a moment of silence during which everyone present is asked to pray for the couple. He will then extend out his hands over the bride and groom. This is an ancient gesture of blessing and the calling down of God's Spirit.

Sign of Peace

We offer one another Christ's peace, greeting those around us.

Please Kneel or Sit.

Communion Rite

Communion Song

#of song in the Missal or title

Holy Communion

*Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist and sharing of Holy Communion is a sign of unity and shared beliefs. While we welcome this opportunity to pray together, and celebrate with **James and Sophia**, reception of Holy Communion is for individuals who believe fully in the Catholic faith. All who are not receiving Holy Communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing, or spend this time in prayer.*

Concluding Rite

Please Stand.

Solemn Blessing

As God gives us precious gifts, there is new work for us to do. We prepare to leave, with gratitude for all that has been given to us and to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. We respond with grateful hearts: "Thanks be to God."

Recessional Song

of song in the Missal or title

[Please Note: If including music (lyrics or words) in this Worship Aid, proper copyright information would need to be included here.]

James and Sophia
would like to thank their family and friends
for joining in today's celebration.

Celebrant

Fr. William Fredrickson

Parents

Mr. & Mrs. Jose Gonzalez
Mrs. Annie Jones

Attendants

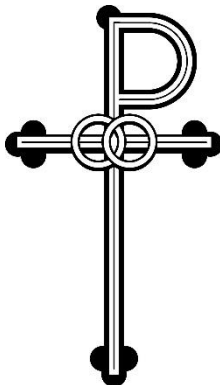
Ms. Sarah Smith
Ms. Catherine Able
Mr. Joseph White
Mr. Antony Gonzalez

Maid of Honor

Ms. Gretchen Reid

Best Man

Mr. Juan Guzman



Rite for Celebrating Matrimony Without Mass

The Celebration of Holy Matrimony

James Gonzalez & Sophia Jones

Saturday, July 19, 2014

The Rite of Matrimony without a mass is identical to the rite used for Matrimony within a mass except the celebration of the Eucharist and all that it implies is omitted.

In the Liturgy of the Word we encounter Jesus in the Word of God, the Bible. We will hear selections from the Old Testament, New Testament and Gospel. The Celebrant will share a homily in which he expresses his thoughts and teachings about the scripture readings.

Sometimes referred to as "Catholic Calisthenics", we will stand, kneel and sit during the Mass. Sometimes we stand out of respect and honor as we listen; sometimes we kneel in worship; and other times we sit, listening to God's Spirit in our hearts. These shared postures and gestures also unify us into one community, one family.

James and Sophia will come before the celebrant, congregation and witnesses to pronounce their vows, proclaiming their love as a sign and symbol of God's love for us. We, the community will pray with them in support of their vows. It is the bride and groom who perform the marriage. The celebrant, the attendants and the congregation witness this holy Sacrament.

Please Stand.

The Introductory Rite

Entrance Procession

We gather as a community and praise God in song, reminding us that we are the people of God on a journey to the Kingdom.

Entrance Song

of song in the Missal or title

Sign of the Cross & Greeting

The priest greets the assembly.

Introduction

Collect (Opening Prayer)

The opening prayer is the conclusion of the Introductory Rites. This prayer by the celebrant expresses the general theme of the celebration. The celebrant “gathers up” all the needs and desires of the assembly and presents them to the Father through the Son and in the Holy Spirit.

Please be Seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Genesis 1, 26-28.31

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 112, 1-8.9

Second Reading

Romans 8, 31-35, 37-39

Please Stand.

Gospel Acclamation

We sing praise to God for the Good News.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5, 1-12

We stand and listen to the Gospel of the Lord. The Gospel reading is taken from one of the four Gospels in the Bible

proclaimed by the celebrant.

Please be Seated.

Homily

The priest offers a commentary or instruction drawn from the Scripture readings and how they can be a part of our daily lives.

Rite of Matrimony

Consent

The Celebrant invites the couple to join hands and declare their consent.

The Blessing & Giving of Rings

[The Blessing and Giving of the Arras]

See page 7

[Hymn or Canticle of Praise]

The Universal Prayer

General Intercessions are an integral part of the Liturgy as we ask and respond confidently that God will act today through us. The response to each Intercession is, "Lord Hear Our Prayer".

The Lord's Prayer

We pray together the Our Father.

[The Blessing/Placing of the Lazo or the Veil]

See page 7

The Nuptial Blessing

The celebrant will call for a moment of silence during which everyone present is asked to pray for the couple. He will then extend out his hands over the bride and groom. This is an

ancient gesture of blessing and the calling down of God's Spirit.

Concluding Rite

Please Stand.

Final Blessing

*As God gives us precious gifts, there is new work for us to do.
We prepare to leave, with gratitude for all that has been given
to us and to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others.
We respond with grateful hearts: "Thanks be to God."*

Recessional Song

of song in the Missal or title

James and Sophia

would like to thank their family and friends
for joining in today's celebration.

Celebrant

Fr. William Fredrickson

Parents

Mr. & Mrs. Jose Gonzalez
Mrs. Annie Jones

Attendants

Ms. Sarah Smith
Ms. Catherine Able
Mr. Joseph White
Mr. Antony Gonzalez

Maid of Honor

Ms. Gretchen Reid

Best Man

Mr. Juan Guzman

Instructions and Directions for Printing

Microsoft Word

This booklet has been created in Microsoft Word which allows for ease of publishing and for two-sided printing.

Directions to Customize

- Heading color is currently black. These can be changed to another color.
- Font can be changed as well by “select all” and choosing a new font.
- It is recommended that the size of the font not be less than 12, to ensure ease of reading.
- Review the content of **text in red**. These items are customizable for each Rite or liturgy, such as scripture readings, songs, etc.
- Consider the readings and songs chosen with the family, and insert this information. Include references to page numbers in the parish missal as appropriate.
- Delete items which are not applicable to the liturgy.
- In order to print in booklet form, delete or add pages to in multiples of 4, for example 4, 8 or 16 pages total
- It is recommended that printing occur on paper above 20 lb. A heavier paper will prevent bleeding of ink between the front and back of the Guide.

Printing

If using double-sided feature on printer, set to:

- letter size paper
- booklet, side-fold
- print on both sides / flip sheets on short edge
- In order to print in booklet form, delete or add pages in multiples of 4, for example 4, 8 or 16 pages total

- It is recommended that printing occur on paper above 20 lb. A heavier paper will prevent bleeding of ink between the front and back of the Guide.

References

- *Rite of Marriage*. (1970), Catholic Book Publishing Co. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- www.foryourmarriage.org/marriage-rite-second-edition-whats-new

Acknowledgements

This template, was developed by Carol Ruddell, as her capstone project for the Diocese of Salt Lake City, Lay Ecclesia Ministry Program and was adapted for use by the Diocese of Salt Lake City, Office of Liturgy. Questions regarding this material can be referred to 801-328-8641.

Additional Resources from the Office of Liturgy

- ❖ *Music for Catholic Weddings*, Office of Liturgy, Diocese of Salt Lake City